

2.2 Using the Tangent Ratio to Calculate Lengths

September-26-13

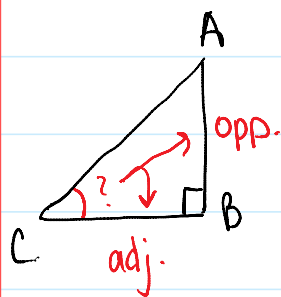
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direct measurement : use a measuring instrument to determine a length or \angle

indirect measurement: use mathematical measuring to calculate length or \angle

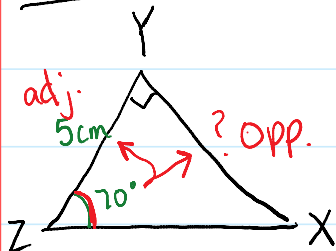
* using this method *

→ in a right triangle, we can use the tangent ratio to write an equation
↳ \angle acute angle + 1 of the lengths = solve for the missing length



$$\tan \angle = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{adj}}$$

Ex. #1 Determine the length of XY



$$\tan(70^\circ) = \frac{\text{opp}}{\text{adj}} = \frac{x}{5}$$

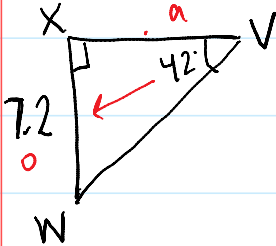
$$\tan 70 \stackrel{x5}{=} x5 \leftarrow$$

$$\tan 70 \stackrel{\times 5}{=} \frac{\cancel{x} \times \cancel{5}}{\cancel{5}} \leftarrow$$

$$5 \cdot \tan 70 = x$$

$$\boxed{13.7 \text{ cm} = x}$$

Ex. #2 Determine the length of VX



$$\tan(42) = \frac{a}{x} = \frac{7.2}{x}$$

$$x \cdot \tan 42 = \frac{7.2}{\cancel{x}} \cdot \cancel{x}$$

$$\frac{\cancel{x} \cdot \tan 42}{\tan 42} = \frac{7.2}{\tan 42}$$

$$\boxed{x = 7.99 \text{ cm}}$$

Exercises pg. 82 # 3-6, 9, 15